

Ballot Argument Against Proposition 8

OUR CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION - the law of our land - SHOULD
GUARANTEE THE SAME FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS TO EVERYONE -- NO
ONE group SHOULD be singled out to BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY.

In fact, our nation was founded on the principle that all people should be treated
equally. EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW IS THE FOUNDATION OF
AMERICAN SOCIETY.

That's what this election is about – equality, freedom and fairness, for all.

Marriage is the institution that conveys dignity and respect to the lifetime
commitment of any couple. PROPOSITION 8 WOULD DENY LESBIAN AND
GAY COUPLES that same DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

That's why Proposition 8 is wrong for California.

Regardless of how you feel about this issue, the freedom to marry is fundamental
to our society, just like the freedoms of religion and speech.

PROPOSITION 8 MANDATES ONE SET OF RULES FOR GAY AND LESBIAN
COUPLES AND ANOTHER SET FOR EVERYONE ELSE. That's just not fair.
OUR LAWS SHOULD TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

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In fact, the government has no business telling people who can and cannot get married. Just like government has no business telling us what to read, watch on TV or do in our private lives. We don't need Prop 8; WE DON'T NEED MORE GOVERNMENT IN OUR LIVES.

REGARDLESS OF HOW ANYONE FEELS ABOUT MARRIAGE FOR GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES, PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE SINGLED OUT FOR UNFAIR TREATMENT UNDER THE LAWS OF OUR STATE. Those committed and loving couples who want to accept the responsibility that comes with marriage should be treated like everyone else.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS ARE NOT MARRIAGE.

When you're married and your spouse is sick or hurt, there is no confusion: you get into the ambulance or hospital room with no questions asked. IN EVERYDAY LIFE, AND ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS ARE SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH. Only marriage provides the certainty and the security that people know they can count on in their times of greatest need.

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EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE. Prop 8 separates one group of Californians from another and excludes them from enjoying the same rights as other loving couples.

Forty-six years ago I married my college sweetheart, Julia. We raised three children – two boys and one girl. The boys are married, with children of their own. Our daughter, Liz, a lesbian, can now also be married – if she so chooses.

All we have ever wanted for our daughter is that she be treated with the same dignity and respect as her brothers – with the same freedoms and responsibilities as every other Californian.

My wife and I never treated our children differently, we never loved them any differently and now the law doesn't treat them differently, either.

Each of our children now has the same rights as the others, to choose the person to love, commit to and to marry.

Don't take away the equality, freedom and fairness that everyone in California – straight, gay or lesbian - deserves.

Please join us in voting NO on Prop 8.

~~1st~~ Samuel Thoron

Former President, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

~~1st~~ Julia Miller Thoron, PARENT

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